[8th October 1928

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know what additional steps the hon. Minister has taken to carry out the recommendation of the Agricultural Commission in this respect?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The report is being considered at a conference in Simla."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Construction of a dam for Thoppiar river.

399 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur : With reference to my speech on 2nd March 1928, Volume XL, page 257, Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have undertaken the work of putting up a dam for Thoppiar river near Omalur taluk, Salem district ; and

(*b*) if so, at what stage the work is at present?

A.—The Thoppiar scheme has been investigated and the plans and estimates for the project are under examination by the local officers. The scheme will be considered by the Government on receipt of the Chief Engineer's report.

Revenue Establishments

Acting and permanent tahsildars in Ganjam and other districts

400 *Q.*—Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUL WAHAB SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of acting or permanent deputy tahsildars and tahsildars in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari East and West, Kistna, Guntur and Nellore who are either Christians or Muhammadans ; and

(*b*) how many of them are fully qualified for appointment as deputy tahsildars and tahsildars.

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the District Revenue Establishment lists corrected up to 1st April 1928 which are available in the Secretariat Library.

(*b*) The Government have no reason to suppose that any of them lack the prescribed technical qualifications. If the hon. Member uses the words "fully qualified" in a broader sense then the matter is one of opinion.

Civil Justice

Returns showing the disposal of civil suits by District and Sub-Judges.

401 *Q.*—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the comparative figures showing the period of delay in the disposal of civil suits by European District Judges and by Sub-Judges and the number of adjournments allowed by them in each suit in any two districts where District Judges are Europeans?

A.—The Government have not got the information.

8th October 1928]

Disposal of suits by district munsifs.

402 Q.—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to ascertain and state—

(a) whether it is a fact that many district munsifs dispose of very few suits in the first two months of each quarter and show hurried and large disposal of suits in the last month of the quarter; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any and, if so, what measures to remedy the same?

A.—(a) The Government have no information. If the hon. Member will mention specific instances, the Government will address the High Court.

(b) Does not arise.

Adoption of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee.

403 Q.—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there has been any appreciable improvement in delays in civil courts by the adoption of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee?

A.—A number of new enactments, e.g., the Civil Procedure Amendment Acts, the Limitation Amendment Act, have come into force as a result of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee. The object of these amendments is to expedite the hearing of cases and to obviate delays whenever possible. The Government have therefore every reason to believe that these measures have the desired effect.

Quarterly statement of civil suits disposed by judicial officers.

404 Q.—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the quarterly statements of disposal of civil suits furnished to the High Court by judicial officers the numbers of adjournments allowed in each suit are noted; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will consider the advisability of having this information noted in the quarterly return for all suits of over a year pending from date of institution for the purpose of checking delays?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) Under section 107 (a) of the Government of India Act, the power to call for returns from subordinate courts is vested in the High Court. The matter is therefore entirely within the discretion of the hon. the Judges.

Number of adjournments granted by district munsifs.

405 Q.—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to ascertain and state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in many suits in District Munsifs' and Sub-Judges' courts the number of adjournments exceeds even twenty; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to remedy the evil?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information If the hon. Member will mention specific instances, the Government will address the High Court.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Daily allowances to jurors and assessors.

406 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the daily allowance paid to the European jurors and assessors in the district courts;

(*b*) the daily allowance paid to the Indian and European jurors and assessors in the High Court;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Indian jurors and assessors are paid only 8 annas; and

(*d*) whether the majority of jurors and assessors are unwilling to receive the summons and if so, whether that is purely due to the existing rates of allowance?

A.—(*a*) One rupee per diem.

(*b*) No batta is paid to jurors attending the High Court. There are no assessors in the High Court.

(*c*) Yes. They are paid a batta of 8 annas per diem in the mufassal.

(*d*) The Government have no information.

Criminal Justice

Issue of orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, on Messrs. Joshi and Giri.

407 *Q.*—Mr. V. KAMESWARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, were issued against Messrs. N. M. Joshi and V. V. Giri at Negapatam and whether it is a fact that they were also asked to quit the place immediately;

(*b*) whether these orders were issued under the directions of the Government of Madras;

(*c*) if not, whether any enquiry was made into the circumstances which led to the promulgation of these orders; and

(*d*) whether they propose to direct the District Magistrate to withdraw these orders?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) They have already been withdrawn.

Electricity

Financial position of the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

408 *Q.*—Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in respect of "The Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Licence, 1925" the Government had called upon the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Trichinopoly, to show that

8th October 1928]

they were in a position fully and efficiently to discharge the duties and obligations imposed upon them throughout the area of supply within the period of one year from the commencement under clause 4 (a) of their licence, dated the 7th July 1925;

(b) whether an affidavit stating "the capital subscribed and paid up" within the 7th July 1926 and such other facts necessary to explain fully the financial position of the said Corporation was ever demanded by the Government and complied with by the said Corporation;

(c) whether Government will place the affidavit or documents connected therewith on the table of the House; and

(d) whether any reference was made to the said Corporation calling upon them to satisfy the Government in regard to their financial position within the time stipulated therefor in clause 4 (a) of their licence?

A.—The Government obtained the necessary reports from the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, with reference to clause 4 (a) of the licence granted to them. The papers cannot be placed on the table of the House.

Security deposited by the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

409 Q.—Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether, in respect of the deposit of security, the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, deposited the sum of Rs. 10,000 in cash or in Government paper, as required by clause 4 (b) of their licence; and

(b) whether, in case of the latter, the Government promissory notes were accepted only on their face value or otherwise and for what amount the Government have passed a receipt in acknowledgment of the security amount?

A.—(a) In 5 per cent war loan bonds 1929—47.

(b) They were accepted at their face value for the full amount of the security.

Completion of compulsory works by the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

410 Q.—Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, had completed within the three years' time-limit prescribed under clause 8 (a) of their licence all the compulsory works "of laying down suitable and sufficient transmission lines and distributing mains and the execution of works for the purpose of supply of electrical energy throughout such streets or parts of streets" as are mentioned in the first annexure to their licence dated the 7th July 1925; and

(b) whether steps were taken by Government under clauses 8 (b) and 15 of the Corporation's licence for revocation, as the period for the completion of all works had actually expired by the 6th July 1928?

[8th October 1928

A.—The Corporation were unable to complete some of the compulsory works within the time limit prescribed and under the provisions of section 4 (3) (*b*) of the Indian Electricity Act, clause 8 (*a*) of the licence has been amended extending the time-limit by seven months

Submission of half-yearly reports by the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

411 *Q.*—Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in regard to the due fulfilment of obligations under clause 8 (*c*) of the licence given to the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, the Corporation submitted reports every six months from the date of commencement of their licence to the date fixed for the completion of all the compulsory works mentioned in the first annexure thereof, specifying all the steps taken and the progress made by the above Corporation in carrying out the works in terms of the licence ; and

(*b*) whether Government will place the connected documents and the half-yearly progress reports on the table of the House ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) No.

Forests

Exemption to officers in the Forest department from licences for firearms.

412 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether at present the officers of the Forest department on active service in forest areas are required to obtain in their personal capacity licences for possessing arms ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Madras Forest Rangers' Association have been requesting the Government to grant exemptions to the officers of the Forest department from the statutory requirement for taking out licences in their personal capacity even while on public duty ; and

(*c*) whether the Government will consider the desirability of exempting such officers from the operation of licensing provisions and also supplying them with suitable firearms ?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government of India have sanctioned the supply of about 260 muskets for the use of such of the Forest subordinates (including Rangers) as the Local Government considered require them for self-protection against wild animals. These subordinates are exempted from taking out licences for the possession of these arms and from paying any fees for them. The Government do not consider that any general exemption as is suggested should be recommended.

(*b*) The Madras Forest Rangers' Association petitioned the Chief Conservator of Forests in December 1923 that the licence fees should be remitted in the case of all arms in the possession of Forest Rangers.

8th October 1928]

Alleged comparative shortness of the period of active service put in by Forest officers.

413 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that officers in active forest service do not put in the same length of service as officers in other departments, and if so, whether it is due to the serious risks to health to which service in the Forest department is liable?

A.—The answer to the first part of the question is that comparison regarding the length of service of officers serving in the various departments of Government is not possible unless elaborate tables of figures relating to all of them on a common basis are prepared. The second part does not arise.

Abolition of confidential reports about forest rangers.

414 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received complaints against the system of treating as confidential the half-yearly conduct reports on the work and conduct of forest rangers; and

(*b*) whether the system of confidential reports will be abolished in all departments in which it may exist?

A.—(*a*) No.
(*b*) No.

Reduction of penning fees and compounding fees in connexion with cattle-grazing in forests.

415 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps, if any, have been taken to reduce the penning fees and compounding fees in connexion with cattle-grazing in forests; and

(*b*) if so, to what extent?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have not recently taken any steps in the matter.

Stamps

Increase in the limit to the value of stamps sold by stamp-vendors.

416 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what action has been taken on the suggestion made during the Budget debates on 15th March 1928 regarding the increase of the limit to the value of stamps sold by stamp-vendors?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No 246 put at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 8th September 1928.

Education

Educational facilities for Parsi boys on the Nilgiris.

417 Q.—Mr. J. A. DAVIS: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps are being taken to provide education for Parsi boys on the Nilgiris;

[8th October 1928

(b) whether the Government have received a memorial pointing out the difficulties which the Parsi community on the Nilgiris is being put to in consequence of the absence of suitable means of education for boys of the community;

(c) whether it is a fact that many Parsis are considering the question of leaving the Hills in consequence of the absence of facilities for the education of their children; and

(d) whether the Government are aware that all the schools on the Nilgiris, other than the European schools, have, as medium of education, Tamil and that therefore Parsi children, who do not understand Tamil, are unable to attend schools other than European schools?

A.—(a) No special steps are being taken
(b) No.
(c) The Government have no information.
(d) The fact may be as stated.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Working of the Wakf properties in this Presidency.

418 Q.—Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have any and, if so, what information regarding the working of the Wakf properties with a list of properties, the places they are situated, the names of the persons in possession of the properties and of cases in which the properties are being mismanaged?

A.—The Government have obtained detailed information regarding Wakf properties from Collectors. An abstract of these replies with remarks in the case of properties said not to be managed properly was furnished in July last to the hon Member and all other Muslim members of this Council.

Public Health

Construction of a special drain for Salem town.

419 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur: With reference to the answer to my question No. 1319 regarding the construction of a special drain for Salem town answered on 23rd January 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether Government have allotted any amount in the Civil Budget Estimates for 1928–29 for the construction of intercepting sewers on both sides of the Tirumanimattar river in Salem and, if not, why?

A.—Yes. A grant and a loan of Rs. 75,750 each have been provided in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1928-29.

Registration

Reduction of the Ammamani fees for registering documents.

420 Q.—Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Registration Department collects Rs. 3 as Ammamani fees for identifying gosha ladies in registering documents and pay only Re. 1 to the Ammamani for identification work;

8th October 1928]

(b) the reason why the excess amount of Rs. 2 is collected more than what is required ;

(c) how the balance of Rs. 2 is utilized ; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to reduce the fee to Re. 1, the actual expenditure incurred ?

A.—(a) A fee of Rs. 3 is levied from gosha ladies in cases where they wish to be examined by a Ammamani. The Ammamani is paid one rupee in the mufassal and one rupee eight annas in the City of Madras.

(b), (c) & (d) The Ammamani fee was Rs. 5 in 1866. The Government reduced the fee to Rs. 3 in 1911. They do not consider that any further reduction is necessary, as the main object of fixing the fee at this rate is to restrict the instances in which the agency is employed to cases of real necessity and as under the note to article 8 of the Table of Fees a Registrar has discretion to remit even the entire fee if, in his opinion, the exaction would be productive of hardship. The balance of fee is credited to Government.

Allowances to sub-registrars for attendance for registration in private residences.

421 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government pay any allowance to the sub-registrars for attendance for registration in private residences in addition to the usual travelling allowance ; and

(b) if not, whether they will pay to the sub-registrars in future portion of the fee collected ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government regret they are not able to do so.

Accommodation for gosha ladies in Registration offices.

422 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the offices of the sub-registrars have any separate accommodation for gosha ladies when they appear before the sub-registrars for registering documents ; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will make the necessary arrangements by providing suitable partitions ?

A.—(a) & (b) A report has been called for.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1) With reference to the answers given to questions Nos. 397, 938 and 1619 at the meetings of the Legislative Council held on 27th August and 31st October 1927 and 28th February 1928 respectively, the Secretary laid on the table copies [a] of reports regarding the repairs to the supply channel to certain tanks in the Kurnool district.

(2) The Secretary laid on the table copies of the list [b] of posts on Rs. 500 and above created during the quarter ending 30th June 1928.

a Printed as Appendix VII on pages 119–135 infra.
b Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 136–138 infra.